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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OPERATIONS CENTERPOLAND WORKING GROUP

Situation Report No. 22

Situation in Poland as of 0500 EST December 22, 1981

Polish government press spokesman Jerzy Urban asserted December 21 that "in principle, calm now prevails in Poland." In a press conference for foreign correspondents accredited to Poland, Urban admitted problems still existed but he said these were diminishing and most people were observing the martial law regulations. As the situation continued to improve, new relaxations of the regulations were being introduced.

Urban stressed that Solidarity had been suspended, not dissolved. The authorities intended to reactivate it as soon as the time was right and depending on the union's attitude. In remarks that were also picked up in the TASS English service, Urban called the processes that had emerged since August 1980 "irreversible, in the sense that in Poland there will be room for independent trade unions operating under self-management and in an unhampered manner, just as all other reforms based on the agreements of 1980 will be continued."

The Military Council warned private farmers on December 21 (in Trybuna Ludu) that lagging food deliveries to the state might compel it to reinstitute compulsory deliveries. Embassy Warsaw comments that a return to the hated system of compulsory deliveries (in effect in the early 1950's) would mark an end to the agricultural policy pursued during the past year which sought to convince the private farmer that he was a permanent part of the "socialist" system and to encourage him to harness his energies toward a more productive agriculture.

Reuter reported that cases of frostbite and gangrene have developed among Poles held in open-air detention camps. The story, datelined Vienna, claimed also that more than 200 persons had been killed so far in the crackdown. No confirmation of this Reuter report has been received.

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State Dept. review completed

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Our Consulate in Poznan reports that the city is calm, with no heavy military presence. The post reports that the martial law arrests have decimated Solidarity, and Poznan Solidarity may no longer exist. The labor situation is relatively calm, and factories appear to be in operation. Food supplies are declining, milk, bread, and eggs are scarce or unavailable, and long food lines were in evidence.

Consulate Krakow staff met with local officials on December 18 to ask for restoration of normal communications with the Embassy. The officials claimed that their own communications with neighboring province governments had been cut and that communications remained under the control of the Ministry of the Interior. These officials also commented that all factories in Krakow were functioning and that food stores were well-stocked.

The Embassy reports an exceptionally good supply of meat in the showcase "Supersam" market, with long lines in evidence there and throughout Warsaw.

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